



Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Committee

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2008 McCloskey Conference Room 135, City Hall

Policy Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department.

Attendance

Policy Committee: Susie Johnson (City of Bloomington Public Works Department), Jack Baker (Citizens Advisory Committee), Isabel Piedmont (City Council – Proxy for Andy Ruff), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highways), Iris Kiesling (Monroe County Commissioner), Lynn Coyne (Indiana University), Sophia Travis (Monroe County Council), and Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Transit).

Others: Lewis May (Bloomington Transit), Walter Cherwony (Abrams-Cherwony & Assoc.), Greg Boruff (Rural Transity), Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), John Carter (Monroe County Community School Corporation), Justin Wykoff (Bloomington Engineering), Josh Desmond (MPO Staff), Scott Robinson (MPO staff), Raymond Hess (MPO Staff), and Joe Fish (MPO Staff).

I. Call to Order (~1:35 p.m.)

II. Election of Officers

Ms. Kiesling motioned to retain Mr. McDaniel as Chair and Mr. Coyne as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Johnson and passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Baker moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and passed unanimously.

IV. Communications from the Chair

Mr. McDaniel had no reports. Ms. Kiesling asked whether a letter had been sent to Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority. Mr. McDaniel replied that a letter was to be sent that day.

V. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

Mr. Baker mentioned that INDOT had agreed to delay the E. 10th Street project to provide INDOT, IU, and the City an opportunity to collaborate and reach a desirable outcome for the project. Mr. Wykoff had no reports from the TAC.

VI. Reports from the MPO Staff

Unified Planning Work Program FY 2009

Mr. Desmond indicated that the MPO will soon begin work on the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program. A draft will be due to INDOT in March and the final UPWP will need to be approved no later than May.

1st Quarter Progress Report FY 2008

Mr. Hess reviewed the progress report for the first quarter of FY 2008 and indicated that these will be distributed to MPO Committees quarterly. Mr. Baker asked about the status of the W. 2nd St. study. Ms. Johnson replied that traffic signals had been retimed. The effectiveness of this work will then be evaluated and it is expected that Public Works will know how to proceed

with the project by early summer.

Transportation Improvement Program FY 2009-2012

Mr. Hess reported that work has begun with local public agencies to develop the next TIP. INDOT has indicated they would like the TIP adopted by April 15th. Consequently, the Policy Committee will likely have to hold a special meeting on April 11th to adopt the TIP.

Intelligent Transportation Systems

Mr. Hess reported that MPO staff has begun work on development of an Intelligent Transportation Systems architecture (or plan). ITS architecture is mandated by national transportation legislation to integrate technology into the transportation network to improve safety and minimize congestion. Mr. Hess will meet with stakeholders over the next several months to gather the inputs necessary to develop the ITS architecture.

VII. Old Business

A. Bloomington Transit's Fixed Routed Operational Study – Final Draft

Mr. May indicated BT has evaluated fixed routes to identify priorities for future improvements as well as how to improve efficiency of the existing routes. Mr. May introduced Mr. Cherwony of Abrams-Cherwony and Associates, the consultant working on the project. Mr. Cherwony gave an overview of the study's findings and methodology.

VIII. New Business

A. FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Bloomington Transit: New Freedom Grant/JARC Awards

Mr. Hess reviewed a memo which indicated that Bloomington Transit was awarded \$200,000 from the Job Access and Reverse Commute grant program to extend the weekday operating hours of all of the downtown fixed routes to 11:30pm. Additionally, BT received \$25,000 from the New Freedom grant program to extend coverage of BT Access to the entire City and extend hours on weekdays to 11:30pm. Mr. May indicated the new hours and coverage resulting from these grants took effect January 7, 2008. The grant will cover one year of operating expenses. Mr. Hess disclosed that all of the TIP amendments under consideration have not been taken before the Citizens Advisory Committee nor the Technical Advisory Committee due to the timing of grant awards and committee meeting schedules.

City of Bloomington: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant Award

Mr. Hess explained the City of Bloomington was awarded \$250,000 to make infrastructure improvements around Templeton Elementary. The grant will help fund construction of sidewalks, a pedestrian refuge island, and a bus pull-off along Henderson St.

Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation: SRTS Grant Award

Mr. Hess explained the RBBCSC was awarded \$250,000 to make infrastructure improvements around the Edgewood campus. The grant will fund sidewalks along Reeves Road, Edgewood Dr. and Ridge Springs Lane.

Monroe County Community School Corporation: SRTS Grant Award

Mr. Hess explained that the MCCSC was awarded \$75,000 to conduct non-infrastructure programs within the MCCSC and RBBCSC school districts. The grant will fund education and awareness type programs such as International Walk to School Day and walking school bus programs.

Ms. Kiesling motioned to amend the TIP to include all of the aforementioned projects. The motion was seconded by Ms. Travis and passed unanimously.



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IX. Communications from Committee Members (*non-agenda items*)

Ms. Travis stated that the Monroe County Plan Commission is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan for Monroe County and encouraged those present to participate.

X. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Citizens Advisory Committee – January 23, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)
- B. Technical Advisory Committee – January 25, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)
- C. Policy Committee – March 7, 2008 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)

Mr. Hess mentioned the January 19th presentation on walkable communities by Dan Burden to be held in City Hall at 10:00am.

Adjournment (~2:30pm)

These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their regular meeting held on 3/7/08.

(RCH 3/7/2008)